

July 3, 2002

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM SITE REMEDIATION

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from facilities that conduct site remediation activities. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems.
- ! Site remediation involves the removal of hazardous substances from contaminated media (soil or groundwater), removal of the contaminated media itself, or removal of non-media hazardous substances. Site remediation can be conducted at industrial facilities such as chemical manufacturing facilities, petroleum refineries, and metal finishers; government facilities such as military installations; and other facilities.
- ! EPA will take public comment for 60 days following the date of publication of this proposed rule in the Federal Register. EPA will hold a public hearing if requested within 30 days of publication.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. This rule will regulate 98 of those toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify categories of industries source or "source" categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA estimates that this rule will affect two hundred and fifty facilities conducting site remediation activities.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- ! EPA estimates the proposed rule will reduce emissions of air toxics by 50 percent from current

levels.

- ! Additional benefits of this rule include volatile organic compound emissions reductions of 50 percent from current levels. These air pollutants contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue, and impair the body's immune system.
- ! EPA estimates the total nationwide capital cost for sources to comply with the rule to be \$17.6 million. The total nationwide annual cost will be approximately \$8.2 million.

PROPOSED RULE REQUIREMENTS

- ! This regulation proposes requirements for emissions controls and/or work practices for three groups of emission points: process vents, remediation material management units (tanks, containers, surface impoundments, oil/water separators, organic/water separators, drain systems) and equipment leaks.
 - " Process vents would be required to vent emissions to an air pollution control device.
 - " Remediation material management units would be required to control emissions by using a floating cover or a fixed roof cover and venting to an air pollution control device.
 - " Equipment leaks - A leak detection and repair program would be required for equipment (e.g., pumps, compressors, valves, connectors) involved in remediation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! Interested parties can download the proposed rule from EPA's web site at: www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html. For additional information, contact *Greg Nizich* of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone (919) 541-3078 or by e-mail at *nizich.greg@epa.gov*.
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: www.epa.gov/oar/.